

tiles are used (or any other ornamental tiles) the lap should be three-fourths of an inch more than in the common plain tiles: the length of the tile (as they vary) will give the gauge two inches, being the usual lap of common tiles. Secondly, with ornamental tiles the lath should be laid to a line-mark upon the rafters, and the upper edge of the laths should be perfectly straight, and so make the tiling weather-tight. The tiles should be laid in very fine mortar, made of loam and new horsedung, well tempered and mixed together; if the tiles be nearly straight, great care is required in the laying. Fine blade moss, if procurable, carefully laid on the heads of the tiles, and not too thick, will be found effectual against the weather.

W. C. S.

In your third volume (p. 371 I find roofs mentioned formed of plain tiles (flat in cement) three courses thick; the span about 19 feet, &c. Wrought-iron bars were used 4½ inches by 1½, four feet apart, and others of smaller size for strutting. I should be glad to know how these answer in point of economy and durability.

It seems to me that the roofs of third-rate houses, 15 or 16 feet span, might be formed (if cambered about a foot) with iron of about half the size of the above, bearing on stone corbels. For some houses (to save loss) the roof might answer for the ceiling by composing the under side.

By properly bedding the tiles in good cement I have no doubt a strong roof can be made: the top course, if Peake's ferro-metallic, would be all the better, as being hard and straight.

No doubt some of your readers have executed roofs of this description, and can speak as to their merit.

A WORKING BRICKLAYER.

IMPROVEMENTS IN KENSINGTON GARDENS, &c.

Now that glass and iron are so cheap, would it not be worth while to expend a few pounds in placing a glass roof over the building in Kensington Gardens designated a conservatory, and make a few alterations so as to allow the light to enter in front, making it a fit receptacle for plants, and not, as at present, a miserable dungeon, where they are condemned to linger out a miserable existence. The expense could be but small.

I would also direct your attention to a great eye-sore,—the state of the margin of the ornamental water, almost a second edition of the mud banks of Father Thames. This might be effectually remedied, and the general appearance greatly enhanced, by the erection of a stone plinth and balustrade all round the margin, making also a few handsome inclines for the water-fowl: a few statues or vases would add to the beauty of the whole. The land here is sadly deficient of drainage: even as late as last Sunday I was almost over shoes' top in trying to effect a crossing from the water to the bridge. I would also direct attention to the footpath in Hyde Park. The one along Rotten-row is now trodden to twice its original width with the present traffic: this I would propose at once to increase, and so prevent the grass being destroyed. The other to which I particularly allude is that running from the Marble Arch to the lower end of the Serpentine; not one-third wide enough for the traffic, and therefore the grass in the neighbourhood proportionably trodden away. This could be remedied at a small cost, and would be a great public convenience, especially in wet weather. As there seems no probability of the lions mounting guard at the foot of the Nelson column this year, I would suggest, by way of a temporary finish, that four field guns complete be placed on the four projections.

H. B.

MR. HENDERSON.—We are glad to learn that we were misinformed as to the death of this gentleman, who, although dangerously ill, is, we are told, still alive. The information came to us from a source that we thought trustworthy. However careful an editor may be, he will sometimes be imposed on.

MODERN MONUMENTAL BRASS.

A TABLET in monumental brass to the memory of the officers of Lord Hardinge's staff who fell in the battles of the Punjab, has been recently made by Mr. J. W. Archer.

The brass is entirely of oriental design, and is composed of—a canopy embattled and worked in sunk panels (by a method of the artist's own production), which contain ornament in geometrical figures, and the word "Moodkee" upon a ground of colour.

A figure of an angel upon a ground of deep azure and stars, displays the inscription.*

Buttresses, on which are a trophy of British arms, the trumpet, banner worked with the royal arms, &c., and the national flag, on the one side; and on the other a trophy of Sikh arms, containing the peculiar Sikh head-piece with heron plumes, nasal, and coif de maille, minutely worked in double rings, the shield ornamented with a tracery in low relief, the tulwar crese, richly-ornamented gauntlet, banner bearing the lion of Scinde, &c. Beneath the inscription, the word "Feroz-sha-hur," in large bright characters upon a ground of scarlet.

The base is composed of elephants entwining their trunks with the flowers of the lotus, upon a ground of diaper, bright flowers upon green,—a bracket completing the design.

The brass is intended to be inlaid in Purbeck stone, and will be sent to India.

GENERAL INSTITUTION OF THE BLIND, BIRMINGHAM.

THE following is a description of this proposed Institution:—The building, which is about to be erected on a piece of land bounded on two sides by the Carpenter-road and Church-road, Edgbaston, is in the Elizabethan style, and will present its principal front to Carpenter-road. In plan it will consist of centre and wings, the former 69 feet, and the latter 22 feet in length. The music-room will be placed at the north-west angle, being partially detached from the main building, and will be 48 feet by 25 feet. The centre, on the ground-floor, will consist of entrance-hall, 20 feet by 12 feet; sale shop, 26 feet by 18 feet; secretary's offices, master's, mistress's, and matron's rooms; store-room, spacious kitchen, and pantries. Immediately in the rear will be the domestic culinary offices, and the kitchen court; and beyond them the basket shop, 60 feet by 18 feet. The right-hand wing will contain dining-room, 40 feet by 20 feet; boys' school-room, 34 feet by 20; and staircase, 20 feet by 9 feet; the opposite wing, girls' basket-room, 20 feet by 32 feet; girls' school-room, 34 feet by 20 feet; and staircase 20 feet by 9 feet; and these wings will be connected by a corridor, 90 feet by 6 feet. The music-room will be set back from the line of main front, and will be contiguous to the girls' school-room. The first floor will consist of the wings and the front portion of the central building, which will be arranged as dormitories, sick-rooms, &c. A store-room will also be erected over the basket-shop, of the same dimensions, namely, 60 feet by 18 feet. At the rear of the institution, and separated from each other by the basket-room building, will be the play-grounds, 150 feet by 94 feet. The entire site of the institution and grounds will enclose an area of 2 acres. The

* The following is a copy of the inscription:—

"To the memory of Major George Broadbent, C.B., 34th Regiment of Madras Light Infantry, who fell gloriously at the battle of Feroz-sha-hur, in the 36th year of his age, the last of three brothers who died on the battle-fields of Asia. Political agent for the affairs of the Punjab; Acting A.D.C. to the Governor-General in the battle. Second to none in all the great qualities of an accomplished officer."

Also, to the memory of Major Arthur Fitzroy Somerset, Grenadier Guards, Military Secretary and A.D.C. to the Governor-General, who fell mortally wounded, conducting himself with the hereditary valour of his race.

Also, to the memory of Major Charles Herries, of H.M. 3rd Light Dragoons, A.D.C. to the Governor-General, whose zeal and intelligence were most conspicuous.

Also, to the memory of Captain William Hore, 18th Bengal Native Infantry, acting A.D.C. to the Governor-General; a very meritorious officer.

Also, to the memory of Lieutenant John Munro, 10th Regiment Bengal Light Cavalry; an officer of the greatest promise.

All of whom fell during the Suttee campaign in their country's service, and whose imperishable reputation will be found recorded in the orders of the Governor-General. This tablet is erected by Lieutenant-General Viscount Hardinge, A.D. MDCCCLXIX."

building is to be executed in red brick and Derbyshire stone: the windows will be mullioned and transomed; and each of the wings will have a bold bay window, whilst the slightly projecting centre will have an oriel over the entrance doorway, which will form a principal feature, having an entablature over it, supported by semi-classic square columns and pilasters. The building is being erected by Messrs. Branson and Gwyther, under the superintendence of Mr. Samuel Hemming, architect.

PARK WICKETS AND GATES.

SIR,—As a resident of Westbourne-terrace, I think I have a right to complain of the ill-nature of the ranger of Hyde-park in shutting the wicket-gates which lead from this point to Brompton and Kensington Gore, as indeed all the other foot entrances, at eight o'clock p. m. There are families who reciprocate visits with me, and the distance which is but half-a-mile across the park, is made into three miles (!), when we are forced to take the round of Park-lane or Kensington.

It is churlish to obstruct people from using the public thoroughfares at any hour, and incommodes many a poor man whose time is an object.

Now, sir, pray ask the Commissioners of Woods and Forests to show a little more courtesy in this respect. Of late there does appear to be somewhat more alacrity in public jobs, for instance, in the prompt reconstruction of the marble arch; but whether this was done to get the start of remonstrance, or with the desire of doing something remarkable before giving up office, is uncertain: it is, however, most certain that the curtailment of liberties complained of is a general nuisance, and particular grievance to me and many more. My friends in Mayfair say it is most fortunate that the passage between Lord Lansdowne's and the Duke of Devonshire's (leading to Curzon-street) is private property, and not under the ban of the Woods and Forests; for, if the latter, instead of being locked but once a year, it would be shut up every night at sun-down, like Kensington-gardens.

Perhaps, sir, you can reply to a query, as many other editors do: if my footman should be spiked on climbing Hyde-park rails, could I recover the loss of his services and the surgeon's bill on an action at law against the Commissioners of her Majesty's Woods?

THERRA.

P.S. I send my card as a voucher. See what you can do for us.

COLOURED HOLLOW BRICKS.

In a public paper written by Mr. Chadwick some time ago on the means of diminishing the absorbency and damp of brick walls, he urged, on sanitary grounds, the use of hollow bricks, burnt hard, and glazed for outside walls, so that they might be made entirely non-absorbent of moisture: he urged that hollow bricks, of similar quality, as hard and non-absorbent as they could be made, should be used to prevent that absorption and retention of the mephitic gases which is perceptible in the offensive smell of small rooms which have been slept in, or crowded by a number of people. He recommended that the walls of rooms, on this account, should be made of the hard non-absorbent naked bricks, so glazed that they could be readily washed down, and suggested that to make the surfaces more seemly in appearance, the bricks should be dipped in "slip" or clay of a finer texture, white, or of such colour that they could be readily washed. By the selection of proper colours, polychromic effects of a high order might be produced.

We understand that two rooms in the model cottages built for Prince Albert will be constructed on this principle. We have seen some specimens of hollow bricks with exterior colourings prepared by Mr. John Ridgway, potter, of Stoke-upon-Trent, of bright colours, not glazed, but dead, which certainly present new means, and those of a cheap and yet a good order for decorative architecture. But at present, at least, such bricks must be made